

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1865.

Letter from Grant's Army.

Headquarters 3rd Wis. Vt.,
Near Petersburg, Va., March 26, 1865.

MESSRS. Editors:—The general quiet which has existed in the Army of the Potowmack, save when temporarily interrupted by artillery practice, was disturbed in good earnest yesterday morning. About four o'clock yesterday morning, amid the darkness the rebels made a heavy charge upon the 2d and 3d brigades of our division, which were holding the line from Ft. Haskall to the Appomattox. At this section of our lines, the picket posts of the Johnnies are not more than ten rods distant from our own, while but a very short space intervenes between our picket and main line of works. This was evidently the weakest part of the whole line occupied by the 3d corps. During the night the enemy massed their forces quietly in front of these works, which were held by the 24th New York heavy artillery and the 20th and 1st Massachusetts troops. So stealthily was this massing executed that the movement was not discovered at our outposts. The proximity of the two lines enabled the enemy to gobble the videttes and pickets before the alarm had been sounded. The two or three rods to Ft. Stedman and battery No. 11, were soon passed over, and with an unearthy yell and very heavy musketry fire, they charged upon these fortifications. They met but little resistance in gaining possession of them as the forces had not been fully aroused. The consequence was that about 350 of our men were captured. Infuriated by their success, holding as they did nearly a quarter of a mile of our line, they rushed madly on in a charge to the left and south, intending to push forward a heavy force, and continuing their movement in the rear of our main works, capturing these and the forces which held them. The plan was a well laid one and in the outset as successful as they could desire, only that they carried far less of our works than they intended to have done, this preventing them from forwarding their forces as fast as they desired. They evidently had not counted upon the 3d Division of our 3d Corps, which has always been held in reserve and has not been encamped on the front line. The enemy charged gallantly over every obstacle, continually exposed to a heavy grape and cannister fire, for a distance of some sixty rods, when they were met by our 3d Division which came up in a perfect line of battle, eager for the fearful work before them. They charged upon the left flank of the enemy and aided by the most gallant and effective artillery fire, succeeded in flanking and cutting off 3,000 of the enemy and hurling the balance back in confusion upon their old lines. The enemy were perfectly demoralized in their retreat, and many fell dead or wounded under the heavy leaden rain and iron hail which was hurled after them. Our forces continued firing until a rebel flag of truce appeared on their lines. The battle field then exhibited a fearful sight. This movement and action consumed some three hours. I fortunately gained permission to visit the scene of recent carnage at noon. The loss of the enemy was less than half a mile from our camp when they were so successfully met. When we arrived up on the field most of our wounded had been removed to the Division Hospital. A few of our dead remained upon the field. Almost the whole of the rebel dead were still lying where they fell. Some of the most seriously wounded had been removed to our hospital. I saw perhaps thirty wounded still unremoved who were kindly treated by our men. As we passed down to Fort Stedman, we saw flags of truce between the lines, and our officers in consultation with the rebel officials. No sooner was this interview over than our men commenced gathering the rebel dead into Fort Stedman, while others carried them to the center of the space between the picket lines, where they were received by the enemy and taken to their own works for burial. It was a terrible sight to behold these men, for they were human beings, although rebels. Our killed could not have exceeded thirty. Our wounded perhaps reached 120: we lost in prisoners not far from 350. The rebel loss in killed and wounded was not far from 250, last night the reported number of prisoners sent to City Point was 3,000, and will not vary much from 3,000.

The triumphal results of the contest, so short, so decisive, has no parallel in the history of this war. The rebels chose the weakest point in our whole line, fixed their own time of attack, carried our works, and accomplished everything but the defeat of our brave patriots. The fate has evidently ceased to smile upon the rebels; and although we believe in the triumph of justice and a just cause, yet 'tis said that fortune favors the bravest and most numerous, and hence, if for no great moral reason, we must henceforth be successful.

The firing on the right of us had not ceased for more than two hours, when we heard the booming of cannon and crack of musketry on the left. This was continued, and towards night the sound gave conclusive evidence that a considerable advance had been made by our forces. We learn to-day that an advance was made by the 2d and 6th corps, that quite a large capture of prisoners was effected, and that the 2d corps now hold the South Side Railroad. If this be true, and we have every reason to credit the report, our success yesterday was more glorious. Added to all this, we are told that the Army of the James was attacked by the enemy at the same time, and that a great rout and capture was the result. The 37th Wisconsin regiment was ordered out, and acted as a reserve flanking force, but were not called into action. They were in plain sight of the attack and charge, but were not needed. The 38th did not move from the front line of works. One division from the 5th and one from the 6th corps were sent to aid the 9th

corps, but fortunately our corps had succeeded in repulsing the enemy before their arrival. The 9th corps has always done the heavy fighting, while other commands have received the credit. And had one regiment of any other corps participated in this recent engagement, all of the laurels would have been accredited to them. But we are for once favored in having an opportunity to triumphantly finish the job unassisted. Many may wonder at the capture of the line of works by the enemy. Had they visited the field of action and beheld the close proximity of the rebels, and the great chance for surprise, they would no longer wonder at the partial success of the enemy.

This victory demonstrates that the enemy cannot succeed in an advance upon our works, however well planned the movement may be, and however much they may take us unaware. Our reserve force is sufficient to meet all requirements made upon it. Never was our army more jubilant and more sanguine of speedy success. The general health of the troops is unsurpassed. The roads are becoming good. The 27th and 32d are in the same positions respectively occupied since December 1st. Capt. Coleman of the 38th, Captains Hitchcock and Lowther, and Adjutant Miltimore of the 37th, are well, as are also the Rock county men in the two regiments. We hope soon to be able to rejoice in additional victories.

Respectfully yours,
E. H. BENHORN, Co. I, 38th W. V.

The Oil Regions.

Now on the Oil Regions.

At this time, when every one is more or less interested in what is called "the oil excitement," it may be of interest to give a description of the process of boring an oil well. It may seem strange to many, at first thought, that men can sink a well with a diameter of from three to five inches through rock, earth and slate, and whatever lies in the way, for, depth of five hundred or a thousand feet. But it is done; let me see how.

THE DERRICK.

The first thing to do is to erect a derrick or the workmen generally say, a set of derricks, which, whether called derrick or derricks, is an upright frame of four pieces of timber, generally forty feet long and converging toward the top. This, placed upon mud sills, with the posts ten feet apart at the bottom, and about four or five apart at the top, securely braced, and furnished with a ladder and a pulley at the top, forms the semi-pyramidal structure which now mars or decorates so many valleys in the oil regions.

THE CONDUCTOR.

In all the wells which I have seen in Southeastern Ohio, the conductor is nothing more than a wooden tube, sufficiently large to admit the drill and sand pump, and is used to prevent the caving of the earth which is above the rock. It is, of course, of varying length, according to the distance from the surface of the ground to the first rock, and is put in position by driving through the earth to the rock, placing the conductor firmly on it, and then filling in the earth. Sometimes the conductor is a metallic tube, and is driven down like a pile to the rock. The earth is then taken out of it by means of a sand

AUGUST 1.

THE DRILL.

Let no one imagine that these "long holes in the ground" are made by means of an auger, as one would bore through timber. Although the term "bore" is used in speaking of the operation, yet the instrument used is not an auger, but a drill. It is made by flattening a heavy rod of iron at one end, so as to give it something the shape of a chisel, but the edge is very obtuse, and slightly arched from side to side. Its width varies from three to five inches, as the proposed diameter of the well, its thickness, where the abrupt edge begins, is not less than one inch. It is made in the strongest manner possible, and is hardened so as to cut its way through the hardest rock. The upper end of the rod is provided with a gear thread, by which it is attached to the sinker and rods.

THE SPRING-POLE AND TREADLE.

If the well is sunk without the use of an engine, it is done either with a spring pole or treadle. The latter is a very simple contrivance, requiring no description. It is used by having a pole attached to it, and passing over a pulley over-head, the other end attached to the pump rods and drill. By pressing the treadle down, the rods and drill are raised, then suddenly removing the pressure, the drill falls, and by its weight cuts the rock.

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THE TACTICS OF SHERMAN IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The formation of Sherman's army, during its march through South Carolina, was peculiar. The front, after the several corps arrived at the Salsahatchie, where the army became united, until it crossed the Peechee, was concave. This observation refers especially to the infantry. The cavalry moved with their usual eccentricity. The concave formation may be illustrated by comparing the disposition of the army to the shape of a horse-shoe; and the shoe pushed through the enemy's concavity with the points foremost. A correspondent of the New York Post, whom we presume, from the exactness of his information and the lucidity of his statements, to be an officer of much intelligence, speaking of the handling of the army during its march, says in a letter dated on the 6th instant:

"It is astonishing that so little care is taken to keep any kind of record of the different strata encountered by the drill in its descent, showing their nature, order, and thickness. Not one well in a hundred makes any pretense of keeping such record, and even when they do, it is but imperfectly done. This is owing partly to the want of geological knowledge, to enable them to form a correct judgment as to the nature of the rock from the finely ground specimens brought up by the sand pump; and it is rendered still more difficult from the fact that the drill often cuts through two feet before the sand pump is used. As a matter of course, its chisel-like action thoroughly intermingles all its chippings, and when they are withdrawn by the sand pump, it is impossible to decide which belonged to the first foot, and which to the second. Still, it would doubtless be of great value, even to the oil business, have much more accurate record of borings kept."

THE RAILROAD LANTERNS, OF THE 1st & 2d PATRONS, FOR KEROSINE OIL, just received at the Philadelphia Drug Store.

MACARONI AND VERMICILLI, PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

VARNISHES—Very superior Turpentine Varnishes, greatly improved by age, for sale at the PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

TEAS! TEAS! Some very choice Green and Black Teas for sale at less than gold rates. PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

ENOCH ARDEN—Paper Edition 42 cents at 20¢ a copy.

OLD WINES AND LIQUORS for medicinal purposes, warranted pure, and can be had at the PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

SEIDELITZ POWDERS—A superior article, for sale at the PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

TERPEN CANDLES and Sperm Oil, at the PHILADELPHIA DRUGSTORE.

THE CRAPPEST TEA in TOWN, price and quality considered, may be had at the Philadelphia Drug Store.

DOING BY STEAM.

Wells are rarely sunk by hand deeper than two hundred feet—not often, indeed, below one hundred feet. The process of taking out the tools by hand is a very slow one after the depth of one hundred feet is reached, and steam gives much help in that part of the work.

In boring by steam, the apparatus used is of a very simple character, and consists of a pivot at its center, or an ap-

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Wells are rarely sunk by hand deeper

The Janesville Gazette.

Wants, Sales, Events, &c.

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CLOTHING HOUSE.

Cor. of State and Randolph Streets,

THIRTY CORDS OF RAILS, of

excellent quality, for sale. Apply at the store of

John F. Prather, 1, on Main street.

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FOR SALE.—Two or three houses

and lots in this city, by

W. C. RAYNER,

Lapin's Block, 3d story.

WANTED!—To rent a house with

six or eight rooms, convenient to the business part of the city. Inquire at Rock River Iron Works.

mar25d1w510

FOR SALE.—Three houses

and lots in this city, by

W. C. RAYNER,

Lapin's Block, 3d story.

WANTED!—To rent a house with

six or eight rooms, convenient to the business part of the city. Inquire at Rock River Iron Works.

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FOR SALE.—A house containing

nine rooms, situated on two lots on Main street, only opposite the residence of B. B. Biggs, Esq., will be sold cheap. Terms easy. For particulars inquire at the residence of B. B. Biggs, Hotel Livery-table, Jacksonville.

ISAAC HOWLAND.

ATTENTION!—We have a good

supply of Cashmere and Tawds on hand,

which we will sell cheap or cash at wholesale or re-

tail during the next thirty days.

W. A. WIEDELER & SON.

mar25d1w528

PARTNER WANTED.—With capi-

tal of \$500 or \$1,000, in a good & safe business

already established. Personal attention may or may

not be given. Address, Box 75, Jacksonville, Wis.

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D WELLING HOUSE FOR SALE.

—Only one block from the Postoffice, on North

Second street, in the Second Ward. Two good lots

on the premises. Inquire of H. A. WISBURG.

ang24d1w529

D WELLING HOUSE FOR SALE.

—A pleasant dwelling, situated on a prop-

erty place, on Main street, in Second Ward. Is offered

for sale on very reasonable terms. Inquire of Mr.

Gregory, in the residence of Mr. A. A. A. two doors

west of the premises.

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D WELLING HOUSE FOR SALE.

—In First Ward, a small house, in the

Compt Property; good location, other houses outwards,

and abundance of shrubbery on the place. Inquire of

C. O. Williams, next door to the premises.

mar25d1w529

SEPTER WINTERWHITE.

B BUILDING AND OTHER LOTS.

—For sale at very low prices, on liberal terms of credit, desired, several desirable lots in the city of

Janesville, situated in Rockport and in Milwaukee's Addition.

H. J. COOPER.

January 9th, 1865.

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FOR SALE.—A good house, cottage

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land, situated in the Ward, and about five minutes

walk from the Post Office. Price \$1,500.00, balance

on time. Apply to J. J. PEASE.

jan25d1w529

GREASE WANTED.—10,000 lbs.

for which I will pay the highest market price in

that quality. Soot, Coal-tar, Grease, &c.

W. M. STEELE.

Tallow, Chander, Soap, and Candle manufacturer,

Janesville, Wis. Office at James Long's Grocery, oppo-

site the Hyatt House.

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FOR SALE.—23 wood lots situated

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ciently convenient. These lands are known

as the Dawson tract. Terms, worth \$100 per

acre. Apply to J. R. PEASE.

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WANTED.—Male and Female help

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Female help—Servewomen for stores, Hotels,

Summertrees, Chambermaids and girls for

general house work, can all obtain situations in ap-

propriate houses. Inquire of the Chicago Employment Asso-

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the number 2390. mar25d1w529

TO RENT.—For one or more years,

the brick building immediately opposite the

Seelye House, the very best location in this city for

the purpose for which it was erected. It consists of a

large room, a back room, a parlor, a back parlor, a

bedroom, a back bedroom, a back parlor, a

